


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>19-493</b>	Meeting:	<b>November 18, 2019</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>8</b>	Roll Call:	<b>19-1803</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside Program, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 applications to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

## SYNOPSIS:

The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for TAP funds for FY 2024. Starting in December, the MPO will be soliciting project applications for STBG funds for FY 2024. City staff recommends that the City submit applications for several projects, as listed below.

### STBG Funds:

1. Southeast Connector
2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade (Maintain/Optimization)
4. Grand Avenue – Martin Luther King Parkway to 28th Street (Maintain/Optimization)

### TAP Funds:

1. Central Place Levee Trail, Phase 1

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Local matching funds for the following projects are included in the 2019-20/2023-24 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or will be included in future CIPs if the applications are successful.

### Funding Source:

#### STBG Funds:

1. Southeast Connector – SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street to US 65 Beltway

STBG Funds Previously Received	\$3,000,000
STBG Funds Requested	\$9,000,000
BUILD Grant Funds Future Request	\$21,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost (2-Lane)	\$41,000,000

2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River

STBG Funds Requested	\$2,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$3,000,000

3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade

STBG Funds Previously Received	\$1,000,000 ( <i>FY 2022 and FY 2023</i> )
STBG Funds Requested	\$1,000,000
Total Project Cost	\$12,500,00

4. Grand Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation—Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to 28th Street

Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds Requested	\$500,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,500,000

TAP Funds:

1. Central Place Levee Trail, Phase 1

TAP Funds Previously Requested	\$0
TAP Funds Requested	\$500,000
FRT Grant Funds Future Request	\$400,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,500,000

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The MPO will award STBG Program and TAP funds to transportation projects throughout the region.
- The MPO is currently soliciting project applications for TAP for FY 2024. The TAP applications must be submitted to the MPO by December 6, 2019. Each year, approximately \$1.2 million is available in TAP funding for the Greater Des Moines region.
- The MPO will be soliciting project applications for STBG for FY 2024 starting in December 2019. The STBG applications are anticipated to be due January 24, 2020. Each year, approximately \$13 million is available in STBG funding for the Greater Des Moines region.
- The MPO is considering five (5) major categories of STBG projects:
  - Roadway Projects/System Capacity
  - Bridge
  - Major Reconstruction/Replacement
  - System Optimization
  - Transit

## STBG Project Applications

Staff has reviewed several potential STBG projects and recommends the following projects be submitted for FY 2024 STBG funding:

1. Southeast Connector – SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street to US 65 Beltway

This project consists of construction of the Southeast Connector on a new alignment from SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street to the US 65 Beltway, connecting at the existing interchange with Vandalia Road. The project will include property acquisition and grading for the full 4-lane divided roadway and construction of a 2-lane facility, consistent with the current roadway between SE 15<sup>th</sup> and SE 30<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Previously awarded STP funds in the amount of \$7,932,000 (FY 2017-2020) were transferred to construction of the Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Intersection Project.

The City of Pleasant Hill will also be included on this application, since a portion of the facility will be within their city limits. The estimated project cost is \$41,000,000. The City received \$3,000,000 of FY 2023 STBG funds. The City plans to request \$9,000,000 of FY 2024 funds. This request for \$9,000,000 of STBG funds in FY 2024 would complete the STBG requests for the Southeast Connector and would allow the project to compete for federal discretionary funding, such as Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), formerly known as TIGER grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). If \$9,000,000 of STBG funding is allocated to the Southeast Connector in FY 2024, the City of Des Moines and the City of Pleasant Hill would agree to not apply for this category of STBG funding for FY 2025 and FY 2026.

Final design is underway for the last section of the Southeast Connector between SE 30<sup>th</sup> Street and US 65. Property acquisition is also beginning. Design, right-of-way and local funding match are included in the CIP with G.O. bonds. Pending allocation of STBG funds, an application for a BUILD grant could be submitted in 2021. This would allow construction to begin in 2023.

2. Fleur Drive Bridge over the Raccoon River

This project provides the rehabilitation and strengthening of the existing bridge. During the 2017 biennial inspections, the bridge was downgraded to be classified as structurally deficient, primarily to continued concrete deterioration. Additionally, newer rating analysis indicates possible rating capacity issues in the north and south end spans. The rating capacity will be further analyzed and additional feasibility level analysis will be done concurrently evaluating strengthening and rehabilitation options. Due to the age of the bridge (1936) and major traffic network changes over the last decade, high level traffic analysis will be done to further understand the function of this route on the transportation network. The estimated rehabilitation and strengthening project is \$3,000,000. The City plans to request \$2,000,000 of FY 2024 funds.

### 3. Intelligent Transportation Systems Upgrade

This project consists of updating the City's traffic signal controllers, central management software, transportation communication system, and video observation camera system. The estimated project cost is \$12.5 million. The City plans to request \$1,000,000 in FY 2024 funds. Previously, STP funds in the amount of \$500,000 (FY 2022) and \$500,000 (FY 2023) were awarded.

### 4. Grand Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation – Martin Luther King Jr Parkway to 28<sup>th</sup> Street

This project consists of pavement repair and resurfacing on Grand Avenue from Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway to 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The estimated project cost is \$1,500,000. The City plans to request \$500,000 of FY 2024 funds.

### TAP Project Applications

Staff recommends the following projects be submitted for TAP funding:

#### 1. Central Place Levee Trail, Phase 1

This project includes constructing a new trail section along the right descending bank of the Des Moines River between the Principal Riverwalk and Prospect Park. The new trail will be a 10-foot wide asphalt section, approximately 1.6-miles in length. The project is estimated to cost \$1,500,000. The City plans to request \$500,000 in FY 2024 TAP funds. The City also plans to submit grant applications for Federal Recreational Trails Program funding in the future.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: October 14, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1577](#)

Action: [Authorizing](#) request of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for the Southeast Connector Project. ([Council Communication No. 19-449](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Approval of project agreements with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).